Care and Maintenance

Cleaning the tank:

Having your septic tank(s) pumped on a regular basis is an essential part of maintaining your system in good working order. Materials like sludge and grease will accumulate in the septic tank and must be removed regularly before they impact the rest of your sewage system.

County regulations require that septic tanks be pumped out at least once every three years. If you have a large family, you may need to have it pumped more often.

The access lid for your septic tank is required to be kept to grade. This allows the tank to be easily located, pumped, and inspected. If your tank is not to grade, an extension riser can be installed at the time of your next cleaning.

Products not to be put into system:

Even though sewage systems thrive on waste water, certain chemicals can harm the delicate balance in a septic tank and should not be run through the system. They include:

- Paints, thinners, and solvents
- Drain cleaners
- Motor oil, kerosene and gasoline
- Floor wax
- Chlorine bleach

Other materials may not chemically harm the system, but may cause a blockage or clog pipes. These items will not break down and can not be digested by microorganisms. The following materials should never be flushed down the toilet or run down the drain:

- Grease, cooking oil and animal fat
- Cotton balls and cotton swabs
- Sanitary napkins and tampons
- Condoms
- Plastics
- Coffee grounds

Protect your sewage system:

- **Do not** build anything over or within ten feet of any part of your sewage system.

- **Do not** allow anyone to drive heavy vehicles like cars or trucks over any portion of the system. Pipes and tanks may be damaged or crushed. The soil in the filtration or leaching field may be compacted, which would minimize its ability to filter and absorb sewage.

- **Do not** plant any shallow rooted trees or shrubs, like willows or soft maples, near any portion of the system. Their roots will grow and travel laterally underground. As they seek water, they can grow into pipes causing blockages.